

Granby Economic Development & Growth Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Meeting Held via Go-To-Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Members: Jay Joyce, Chairman
Bryan Hauschild
Bill Porter
Jim Trompke
Lillian Camus (Alternate)

Absent: Gary Glenn
Jason Smigiel – for DLTA Project Work Group portion

Visitor: Ken Comia – Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Call to Order: Jay Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval February 4, 2020 Minutes

Jay Joyce asked if there were any changes to the February 4, 2020 minutes. Hearing none.

Motion made by Bryan Hauschild and seconded by Bill Porter to approve the February 4, 2020 minutes. Motion carried 3 in favor (Jay Joyce, Bryan Hauschild & Bill Porter), 0 opposed, 1 abstained = Jim Trompke

Approval September 15, 2020 Joint Planning Board and Economic Development & Growth Committee Minutes

Jay Joyce asked if there were any changes to the September 15, 2020 Joint Planning Board and Economic Development & Growth Committee minutes. Hearing none.

Motion made by Bryan Hauschild and seconded by Jim Trompke to approve the September 15, 2020 minutes. Motion carried 4 in favor (Jay Joyce, Bryan Hauschild, Bill Porter), 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Open Action Items

Businessman's Recommendations

- 1) Land acquisition
 1. Sand Plains State Park Land off Green Meadow Lane.
 - i) The Committee discussed pros and cons of the Town purchasing the land.
 - ii) Jay Joyce will get all the documentation on the area and forward it to the Committee.

2. Cooley Park – Park Oversight Committee said we are welcome to the land because no one wants to use the park as it is so bug infested. The Committee decided not to move forward with Cooley Park.
3. Route 202 acreage abutting Town-owned land – 4 West State Street to access Town-owned land-locked parcel.
 - i) Property owner considering donating the land to the Town. In return the property owner wants a playground for kids created with a memorial plaque dedicating the playground to her husband.
 - ii) Jim Trompke suggested the Land Review Committee take a look at the property.
 - iii) Jay will recommend at the next Select Board meeting the Land Use Committee review the request.
- 2) Short Term Tax Incentives for new businesses
 1. Bill Porter reported the Assessors have not fully explored the tax incentives.

Rt. 202 Upgrades – Except Village Center

- 1) Water Pipeline at 5 Corners = waiting for Mass DOT FY2023 scheduled work
 - a. Waiting until 2023 to finalize plans in conjunction with Mass DOT’s schedule.
- 2) Water Pipeline from the South Hadley\Granby Town line to 64 West State Street
 - a. South Hadley Tasks to be completed:
 - i. Requiring a minimum of 40% of the businesses to commit to using the pipeline before they will give us a letter of approval.
 - ii. Responses from the businesses are due no later than October 31, 2020.
 - iii. If we don’t receive 40% of the businesses committing, the project is dead.
 - iv. If South Hadley issues a letter of approval, the Select board will contact the politicians to ask the status of the “in-kind” money (\$560,000). The money was revoked by Mass DOT.

Grants/Loans

- 1) Mass Works Grant Application
 - a. The Town did not apply for June 2020 grant.
 - b. Next one due June 2021 (unless COVID-19 changes date)
- 2) EPA Water Structure Funding Loan – Waiting on response from Steve Nally
- 3) Small Town Road Assistance Program Grant Application – (STRAP)
 - a. The Town did not apply in FY2020 for a grant.
 - b. Not sure if the Town will apply for a FY2021 grant.
- 4) Economic Development Grant Application
 - a. Grant approved and will be for mixed zones with PVPC working with the Planning Board on Zoning changes.
 - b. Ken Comia led the Work Group in a discussion around barriers to mixed-use development in the Town.

- c. Bryan Hauschild asked where other communities zoned mixed use development. Ken Comia responded the village center is where it is usually established where the town resources are. Usually walkable areas.
- d. Bill Porter noted the requirements will cost developers a lot of money making a mixed-use development prohibitive.

Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program

- 1) Granby Municipal Utility (Electric) Department
 - a. Initial Grant Application not approved. We are waiting for Grant Funding to become available.
 - b. PVPC is researching requirements and permitting.

New Business

- 1) Small Business Administration COVID-19 Grants
 - a. Applications open October 22, 2020 at noon and close November 12, 2020 at noon.
 - i) Valley Community Development has sources available to assist at no charge with the applications
 - b. Two Grants Available
 - i) Businesses with 5 or less employees
(1) \$10,000 limit
 - ii) Businesses with 50 or less employees
(1) \$75,000 limit

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Go-To-Meeting.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Bill Porter and seconded by Jim Trompke to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.
Motion carried 5 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

I, Lillian Camus, certify that these minutes are true and accurate minutes of the October 27, 2020 Granby Economic Development and Growth Committee meeting.